

guess I would wonder how, if the bill would pass without the word "state" in the bill, how Jack McBride and others that will be working with this industry will be able to set up policy to dictate how the public radio industry is going to work in the state. I suggest that we leave the language as it is. I suggest that we advance the bill and give it an opportunity to work. As the bill is written now, there is no state funding, and there is no guarantee that there will ever be state funding. But it is certainly a possibility, I will not deny that. I will be very blunt and honest about that. But it is a good first step, and it is a very conservative first step for the public radio industry in our state. I think it is appropriate that we provide this service to all citizens, not just part of them.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner. I'd like to give the speaking order that I have here now. After Senator Hefner, Lamb, Vickers, Scofield, Nelson, Marsh, Haberman, and Harris. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment to LB 461. I think if the supporters of this bill feel that they mean what they are saying, they should have no objection to strike "state". I don't like to see any state funds being used for public radio. And while I'm on this issue, public radio, do we really need it? I think that the private stations are doing a good job. And, on the other side of the coin, can we afford it? So many times here in this body we'll pass a bill, certainly with no fiscal impact. But then the next year it hits us, and the following year, and the year after. I just don't think that we can afford to pick up the tab. I believe that when the public television bill came up they said that it would be very little cost to the state, and now all you have to do is look at the appropriation bill and you see that we are funding it with millions of dollars. So I would urge you to just strike this one word, strike the word "state". Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the amendment. I don't think this is the year to start a new spending program and that is exactly what will happen unless this amendment is adopted. While there is no state money in it this year, the bill is wide open to future appropriations. It would not take any new legislation in order for state funds to be involved. Now, if the people that are interested in this issue are willing to collect and use private funds for that